

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A magnetic bearing element having at least one annular permanent magnet (2, 3) that is surrounded by an annular binding band (5), wherein the permanent magnet (2, 3) is divided at at least one location (4) and spaced apart there.
2. (Original) The magnetic bearing element according to Claim 1, wherein the location (4) is embodied as a radially extending slit.
3. (Currently amended) The magnetic bearing element according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the permanent magnet (2, 3) is divided and spaced apart at multiple locations (4).
4. (Original) The magnetic bearing element according to Claim 3, wherein the locations (4) are distributed regularly over the periphery of the permanent magnet (2, 3).
5. (Currently amended) The magnetic bearing element according to ~~Claims 1 to 4, Claim 1~~ wherein the bearing element comprises multiple permanent magnets (2, 3) arranged concentrically with one another, all of which are divided at at least one location (4) and spaced apart there.
6. The magnetic bearing element according to Claim 5, wherein the locations (4) at which the permanent magnets (2, 3) are divided and there spaced apart are offset from one another in the circumferential direction.
7. The magnetic bearing element according to ~~any of the foregoing claims~~ Claim 1, wherein the annular binding band (5) is made from a carbon-fiber material.